

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:DGWAGNER:ZC

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS STATE 118571

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:CPAS, PFOR, PN, VE, PQ (ASTWOOD, JOSEPH PETER)

SUBJECT: REFUSAL OF PANAMANIAN EMBASSY TO VISA U.S. OF-  
FICIAL PASSPORT SHOWING BEARER'S BIRTHPLACE AS  
"CANAL ZONE"

REFERENCES: CARACAS 14139 (DEC. 1976); CARACAS 4541

1. WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE PANAMANIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON  
THAT MAJOR ASTWOOD'S SON'S PROBLEM HAS NOT SO MUCH TO DO  
WITH ENTERING PANAMA AS WITH EXITING THE COUNTRY INTO  
COSTA RICA. JOSEPH IS A U.S.-PANAMANIAN DUAL NATIONAL.  
ACCORDING TO THE PANAMANIAN EMBASSY HERE, THE PANAMANIAN  
AUTHORITIES AT THE COSTA RICAN BORDER WILL PROBABLY RE-  
QUIRE JOSEPH ASTWOOD TO HAVE A PANAMANIAN PASSPORT IN  
ORDER TO LEAVE PANAMA THROUGH THAT POINT, SINCE HE IS CON-  
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SIDERED TO BE A PANAMANIAN CITIZEN BY JUS SOLI.

2. MAJOR ASTWOOD HAS THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

- A. HE CAN AVOID PANAMA AND THE CANAL ZONE COMPLETELY.
- B. HE CAN FLY OUT OF PANAMA THROUGH TOCUMEN AIRPORT.
- C. HE CAN OBTAIN A PANAMANIAN PASSPORT FOR JOSEPH.

3. REGARDING OPTION C, WITH A PANAMANIAN PASSPORT JOSEPH SHOULD BE ABLE TO ENTER AND LEAVE PANAMA WITHOUT ANY PROBLEM. THE PASSPORT CAN BE OBTAINED IN CARACAS OR PANAMA. IF IT IS OBTAINED IN PANAMA, HOWEVER, MAJOR ASTWOOD SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT JOSEPH IS ENTERED ON HIS AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER THE CANAL ZONE AND THAT MAJOR ASTWOOD AND HIS FAMILY PASS THROUGH CANAL ZONE IMMIGRATION AT TOCUMEN AIRPORT RATHER THAN PANAMANIAN IMMIGRATION. THE PANAMANIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ADVISES US THAT A BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND 23 DOLLARS IN FEES ARE REQUIRED FOR THE PASSPORT. NEVERTHELESS, MAJOR ASTWOOD SHOULD CHECK THE PANAMANIAN EMBASSY IN CARACAS FOR CONFIRMATION.

4. OBTAINING A PANAMANIAN PASSPORT UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WILL NOT AFFECT JOSEPH'S AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** CPAS, PFOR, PN, VE, PQ, (ASTWOOD, JOSEPH PETER)  
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